

1 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 22

2 **52ND LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2015**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Stuart Ingle

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9  
10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 CONGRATULATING THE LEGISLATURE ON ITS TWO HUNDRED THOUSANDTH  
12 "202" FILE.

13  
14 WHEREAS, the legislative council service was created on  
15 July 1, 1951 as part of a nationwide movement to improve staff  
16 resources for part-time legislatures so they could function as  
17 independent, co-equal branches of government; and

18 WHEREAS, it was the legendary Inez Gill who designed the  
19 legislative council service's filing system, with 202 being the  
20 file set that includes the members' confidential requests for  
21 drafting or research; and

22 WHEREAS, in 1994, the one hundred thousandth 202 file was  
23 opened during the forty-first legislature, second session, in  
24 the rush of requests before the bill introduction deadline,  
25 just shy of forty-three years of the legislative council

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1 service's existence; and

2 WHEREAS, in an historical "blink of an eye", a mere  
3 twenty-one years later, file number 202.200000 was opened on  
4 February 9, 2015, without, sorry to say, the balloons, confetti  
5 and kazoo band the staff was hoping for; and

6 WHEREAS, the 202 files represent the legislative process  
7 in all its democratic glory; and

8 WHEREAS, from raw ideas to engrossing and enrolling, 202  
9 files for bills, memorials and resolutions; for amendments or  
10 substitutions; for section-by-section analyses; and for pros  
11 and cons, they are the framework legislators use to hash out  
12 the legal, social, economic and political worthiness of those  
13 ideas; and

14 WHEREAS, as was said in 1994 when lauding the one hundred  
15 thousandth benchmark, "the 202 files have been both the cradle  
16 and the grave for the best and the worst of legislation"; and

17 WHEREAS, the two hundred thousand files amassed over  
18 sixty-four years also represent the efforts of thousands of  
19 hard-working New Mexicans who have made the legislative process  
20 smoother, smarter and more efficient and effective, from all  
21 the legislative staffs to the members of thirty-one  
22 legislatures, and thousands upon thousands of interested  
23 citizens who have stepped forward in favor of or in opposition  
24 to all those ideas; and

25 WHEREAS, the 202 files are tangible proof of the

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1 importance of a citizen legislature staffed and aided by  
2 professionals who have an abiding dedication to the legislative  
3 branch of state government, the institution that serves most  
4 immediately the needs and wishes of its residents;

5 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
6 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the legislature be requested to pause  
7 and reflect on the system that gives expression to a nation's  
8 finest creation, the legislature, in which each member  
9 represents the constituents of the member's district while  
10 balancing the needs of all residents of the state; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this one memorial be signed by  
12 all legislators assembled this day and that the memorial be  
13 framed and permanently displayed at the legislative council  
14 service.